

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02965 201451Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH ELECTION ROUNDUP, APRIL 13-20

REF: ANKARA 2902 (DTG 190950Z APR 77)

1. PREPARATIONS FOR THE JUNE 5 ELECTION ARE CENTERING ON SELECTION OF CANDIDATES, A PROCESS WHICH HAS RESULTED IN SIGNS OF INNTER TURMOIL IN SEVERAL PARTIES. ACTIVE CAMPCIGNING HAS BEGUN BUT IS NOT YET AT A HIGH STAGE. NO RPT NO CLEAR TIDE OF MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR ANY PARTY IS EVIDENT YET.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02965 201451Z

2. ON MAY 1 THE TWO LARGEST PARTIES, THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP), WILL CONDUCT "PRIMARY ELECTIONS" (IN WHICH ONLY PARTY REPRESENTATIVES VOTE) IN ALMOST EVERY PROVINCE. EXCEPT FOR THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP), WHICH WILL HOLD PRIMARIES IN THREE OR FOUR PROVINCES, THE SMALL PARTIES' CANDIDATES WILL BE DETERMINED BY PARTY HEADQUARTERS.

3. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE CONCENTRATING ON THE CAMPAIGN, FAILED TO HAVE A QUORUM DURING THE LAST WEEK, DESPITE A MAJOR EFFORT MOUNTED BY THE OPPOSITION WITH THE PARTIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) TO CONVENE A JOINT SESSION APRIL 18 TO AIR NEW EVIDENCE ON DEMIREL'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE SO-CALLED "FURNITURE SCANDAL". ON APRIL 19, FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE SENATE TO RECESS, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER GUVEN DECLARED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN RECESS.

4. CANDIDATE SELECTION MANEUVERING HAS LED TO A NUMBER OF RESIGNATIONS AND TRANSFERS:
--REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) MINHEALTH KEMAL DEMIR RESIGNED FROM THE CABINET, ALTHOUGH FOR THE PRESENT NOT FROM THE PARTY, AND WAS REPLACED BY RR SECGEN VEFA TANIR. DEMIR ANNOUNCED HE WOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION. TWO PROMINENT LEADERS OF THE OLD REPUBLICAN PARTY WING OF THE RR, KEMAL SATIR AND ALI IHSAN GOGUS, RESIGNED FROM THE RR.
--FOUR INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES, FORMERLY DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) MEMBERS, JOINED THE JP AND ANOTHER JOINED THE NSP.
--TWO RPP DEPUTIES (FROM AGRI AND SIIRT) RESIGNED FROM THE PARTY AND REPORTEDLY WILL RUN AS INDEPENDENTS, WHILE ANOTHER TWO ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN BLACKBALLED AS CANDIDATES BECAUSE OF AFFILIATION WITH EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS.
--APPROXIMATELY 13 PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED "DISSIDENT" FACTION WITHIN THE NSP, LED BY EX-MINLABOR PAKSU, ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 18 THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE CANDIDATES FOR RE-ELECTION. ACCORDING TO MOST REPORTS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 02965 201451Z

DISSIDENTS ARE MEMBERS OF THE NURCU RELIGIOUS SECT AND ARE DISCONTENT WITH THE DOMINATION OF THE PARTY BY THE RIVAL NAKSHIBENDI SECT.

5. EX-PRESIDENT CELAL BAYAR ANNOUNCED HE WOULD AID THE JP IN THE CAMPAIGN, BUT WOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY.

6. CAMPAIGN THEMES AND ISSUES:
A. ECEVIT, OFF TO A WHIRLWIND START WITH 39 SPEECHES DURING A RECENT THREE-DAY TOUR, IS DEVELOPING THE THEME THAT THE RPP IS MORE NATIONALISTIC THAN THE NATIONALIST FRONT. IN A SCATTERGUN APPROACH, HE CASTIGATED DEMIREL'S PERFORMANCE IN THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSAPCE DISPUTES, POINTED TO HIS OWN PERFORMANCE IN 1974 CONCERNING THE CYPRUS INTERVENTION AND RESUMPTION OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION, AND ACCUSED DEMIREL OF NOT DEFENDING TURKISH INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS THE EC. HE ALSO CHARGED DEMIREL WITH MAKING TURKEY DEPENDENT ON OUTSIDE ENERGY FROM BULGARIA AND THE USSR, OF PERMITTING THE FOREIGN EXPLOITATION OF UNDERGROUND RESOURCES AND OF "MORT-

GAGING THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY TO FOREIGN BROKERS" THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S BORROWING PLANS.

B. DEMIREL WILL START HIS CAMPAIGN MAY 1 AND HAS LIMITED HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING THE LAST WEEK. HOWEVER, HE HAS MADE STATEMENTS ATTACKING ECEVIT AS A COLLABORATOR OF ANARCHISTS, AND NOTING THAT HE HAD GOVERNED THE COUNTRY FOR 7 1/2 YEARS WHILE ECEVIT WAS BARELY ABLE TO LAST 7 1/2 MONTHS.

7. MOST PRESS SPECULATION HAS CONCERNED THE HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE SMALLER PARTIES:

A. A SECTARIAN SPLIT WITHIN THE NSP, IF NOT REPAIRED, WOULD BE A SERIOUS SETBACK TO THE NSP'S CHANCE FOR INCREASING ITS VOTE.

B. REPORTS OF A NATIONALIST-ISLAMCI RIFT WITHIN THE NAP, WITH THE MORE RELIGIOUSLY ORIENTED FOLLOWERS SHIFTING ALLEGIANCE TO THE NSP.

C. THE RESIGNATIONS OF PROMINENT RR MEMBERS COULD ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 ANKARA 02965 201451Z

BUT FORECLOSE THE PROSPECT OF THE RR'S OBTAINING THE 10 DEPUTIES NEEDED TO FORM AN ASSEMBLY GROUP OR THE 5 PERCENT OF THE VOTE NECESSARY TO RECEIVE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES.

8. CONGENS ISTANBUL AND IZMIR AND CONSULATE ADANA HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

MACOMBER

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